

that it is not proscribed either by the constitution or by the statutes unless the practice of reading therefrom takes the form of sectarian instruction."

The trial of Colonel Arthur Lynch, member of parliament for Galway, on the charge of high treason because of the aid he rendered the Boer cause in the recent struggle, began on January 21 at London. It is said that upwards of sixty years have elapsed since there was a treason trial in England, and the progress of the case is being watched with much interest.

Duncan Clinch Hayward, democrat, was inaugurated as governor of South Carolina on January 21 and J. T. Sloan as lieutenant governor.

On January 22 it was announced that the bombardment of Fort San Carlos in Venezuela was still going on, three German vessels participating in the attack. Twelve dead and fifteen wounded Venezuelans was the result of the first day's bombardment. This action on the part of the German authorities has caused much comment throughout this country as well as in Europe. It is said that England holds with Germany that such a process was necessary in order to maintain the blockade on Lake Maracaibo, but the proceeding is condemned by Italy and is looked upon in the United States as seriously impairing the progress of the arbitration proceedings which seemed in a fair way to be consummated.

The trial of Colonel Lynch on the charge of treason concluded in London on January 23 and he was found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death. It is regarded as probable that this sentence will be commuted.

Count von Ballestrom, the president of the German reichstag, has resigned his office in consequence of the recent bitter criticism he has been subjected to on account of the socialist uprisings in the reichstag. The trouble arose in the president's refusing to allow a discussion of the charges brought against the late Herr Krupp and Emperor William's speeches on the subject.

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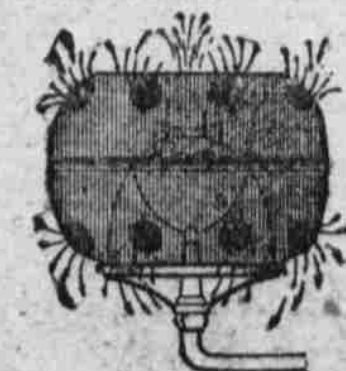
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Jay Cooke's Bible Class.

The Chicago Tribune prints an interesting story relating to Jay Cooke, the famous financier. Here it is:

Jay Cooke of Philadelphia has taught for fifty years a Bible class. This is the oldest Bible class in America. Its teacher takes in it the same profound and joyous interest that he took in the financing of the civil war and in the building of the Northern Pacific railroad. It is not wondered, therefore, that it is a success.

Mr. Cooke is now 80 years old. He is about 6 feet in height, and he weighs 175 pounds. His figure is erect, his gait is elastic, his cheeks are full, the healthy, unwrinkled skin covering the firm flesh smoothly. His blue eyes are alert and gay and clear. His voice is young, and his ready laugh is young.

St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal church, where he conducts his Bible class, is at Ogontz, one of Philadelphia's beautiful suburbs, where P. A. B. Widener and William L. Elkins have great white houses—houses as huge and magnificent as cathedrals. It was established by Mr. Cooke more than fifty years ago, when he bought the land it comprises for \$300 an acre, and this land is now worth \$10,000 an acre. He named the place after an Indian chief, Ogontz, who had carried him on his shoulder and taught him the lore of hunting in his boyhood in Ohio.

Mr. Cooke narrated the history of his Sunday school class the other afternoon. He said:

"I lived in 1852 at the Cedars, a house that stood where Mr. Elkins' house now stands. Next to me lived John W. Thomas, a merchant. Mr. Thomas and his family, and I with my family, used to get up on Sunday before it was light and we would drive in to Philadelphia to St. Paul's church on Third street, below Walnut street, for there was no church here in those days. We would arrive in time for the Sunday school service at 9 o'clock, and after Sunday school we would attend the church service. Then we would get our luncheon in the schoolroom, and at 2:30 o'clock we would attend the afternoon service. After this we would drive home, getting back at 6:30.

"I'll tell you, parenthetically, who one of Mr. Thomas' sons was. He was a lad called George, and he worked in his father's mercantile house. I claimed him from that house; I said I wanted him to come with me in the banking firm of Jay Cooke & Co. He was an industrious, moral, brilliant boy; to train him in banking was a pleasure, and it was not long before he became one of my partners. Then, after my retirement, he went with the house of Drexel & Co., and he is the head of Drexel & Co. today. Today George C. Thomas is, after J. Pierpont Morgan, the greatest banker in America. It pleases me to be able to say this truthfully of him. It is a fine thing to have seen this boy grow up into so good and so successful a man.

"Now to return to my Bible class. I started it because I perceived that there was a great need of it. It had forty-five members in the beginning, and the services were held in the parlor of my home. They were evening services—they lasted from 7:30 until 9 o'clock—and they made my Sunday a full day, for I still continued to get up before daybreak and to attend at St. Paul's the services there. "But I gave a great deal of attention to the Bible class, for all that, and it prospered well. It grew to be too big for my parlor. Therefore I put a second story on one of my outbuildings, and arranged there an admirable Sunday school room. Still the class continued to grow.

"In 1860 we established St. Paul's church at Ogontz. We erected beside the church a Sunday school building,

and the upper floor of this building was reserved for me. But my class kept on increasing. It mounted to a membership of 150. Its quarters became again uncomfortably crowded.

"And therefore I built Parvin hall. This hall was named after the Rev. Robert J. Parvin, who was then our rector. It seats 300 persons, and we use it for our entertainments and for my Bible class. The Bible class services are at 2:30 o'clock each Sunday afternoon. Do you know that some of the members—Herbert R. Hammond, Samuel Fisher, and others—have been with the class from the beginning, nearly fifty years ago? I give two afternoons or two evenings each week to the preparation of the lesson, and this work is pleasant to me. I always learn much from it."

Little Woman.

A little bit of a woman came
Athwart my path one day;
So tiny was she that she seemed to be
A pixy strayed from the misty sea,
Or a wandering greenwood fay.

"Oh, you little elf," I cried—
"And what are you doing here?
So tiny as you will never do
For the brutal rush and hullabaloo
Of this practical world, I fear."
"Voice have I, good sir," she said—
"Tis soft as an angel's sigh,
But to fancy a word of yours were heard
In all the din of this world's absurd,"
Smiling, I made reply.

"Hands have I, good sir," she quoth—
"Marry, and that you have!
But amid the strife and the tumult
Of life,
In all the struggle and battle for life,
What can these wee hands do?"
"Eyes have I, good sir," she said—
"Sooth you have," quoth I,
"And tears shall flow therefrom, I vow,

And they betimes shall dim with woe,
As the hard, hard years go by."
That little bit of a woman cast
Her two eyes full on me,
And they smote me sore to my inmost core,
And they held me slaved forevermore,
Yet, would I not be free,
This little bit of a woman's hands
Reached up into my breast,
And rent apart my scoffing heart—
As cannot be expressed.

The little bit of a woman's voice
Has grown most wondrous dear,
Above the blare of all elsewhere
(An inspiration that mocks at care)
It riseth full and clear.
Dear one, I bless the bustle power
That makes me wholly thine;
And I'm proud to say that I bless the day
When a little woman wrought her way
Into this life of mine.

—Eugene Field.



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